

BRIEF
DAILY ROAD SERMONS
RAILROAD STORIES



By
T.M. Humphrey

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AUTHOR

Humphrey

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Stories

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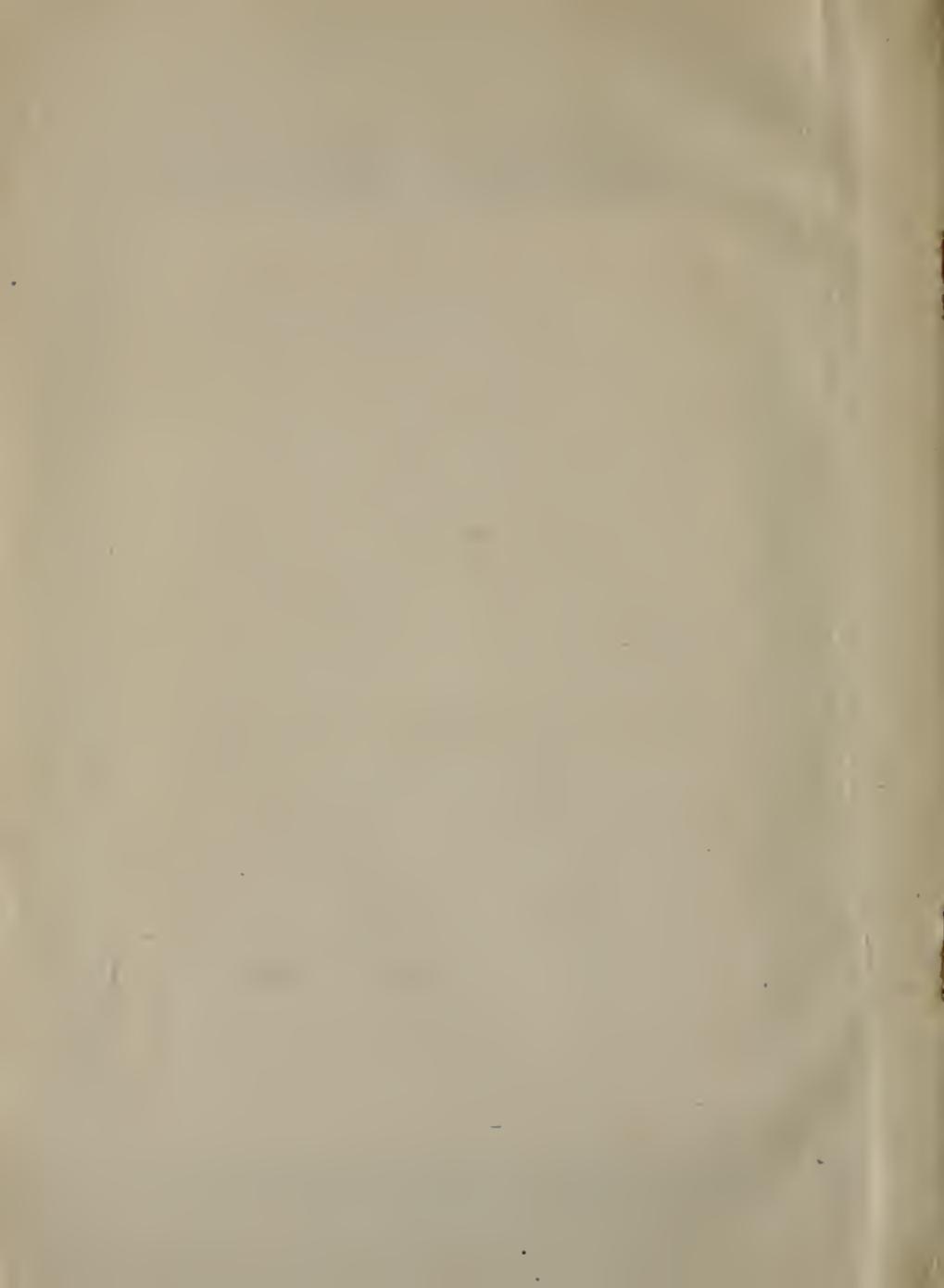
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RAILROAD SERMONS
— FROM —
RAILROAD STORIES

By
J. M. HUMPHREY

"Blessed are ye that sow beside all waters"

Isa. 32:20.

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FOREWORD

When the writer was a young man, he was favored with the privilege of traveling quite extensively on the railroad; by which means he obtained considerable information regarding the track, the cars and general railroad life.

Therefore, he wishes, by way of illustration, to draw some spiritual lessons from railroad life, which he hopes may prove a great blessing to precious souls; especially railroad men and the traveling public.

Trusting that these short stories may receive the blessing of God, and the prayers and hearty co-operation of the reader, we send them forth in the name of Him who came to seek and to save that which was lost.

Yours in His Service,

J. M. H.

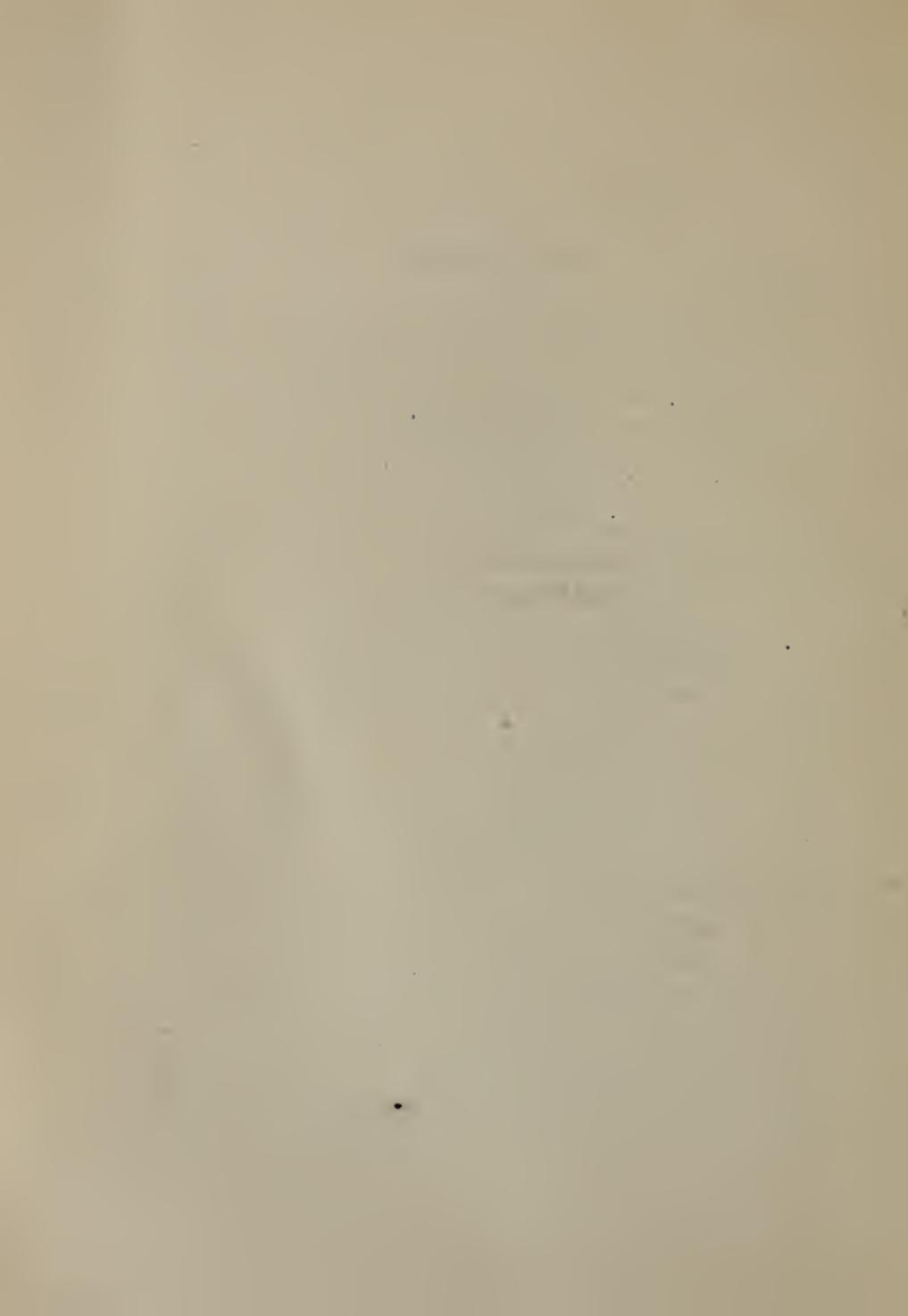
October, 1916.

Dedication

THIS LITTLE VOLUME
IS PRAYERFULLY DEDICATED
TO
RAILROAD MEN
AND ALL TRAVELERS TO
ETERNITY

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LIFE'S RAILROAD

We're trav'ling o'er the track of time,
From this to worlds unknown,
To share a home of joy sublime,
Or share the sinner's doom.

How vain are all the things we see,
How transient earthly joys!
What madness all its seeming glee!
What phantoms all its toys!

Man's soul is all there is below,
That has eternal worth;
It fits itself for weal or woe,
Each moment while on earth.

Then let us take the safest track,
And all our sins renounce,
For this we know—we'll not come back;
We'll go this way but once.

The Author.

CHAPTER I

CONSTRUCTING A RAILROAD

There are many valuable lessons to be learned in the railroad world, which, if spiritually applied, might be of inestimable value to those who study and apply them. One of the many striking features about a railroad which is quite suggestive when scanned from a spiritual standpoint is found in the construction of the road. The preparatory steps are so similar to that of a soul making ready for heaven that the writer could not help but notice it.

Let us briefly notice some of the many ways in which building a railroad bears this striking similarity.

The first men on the scene are generally the surveyors, whose duty it is to devise, plan and mark out a straight course. All short curves and crooks are to be avoided as far as possible. So it is with one who is making preparation to spend eternity with a holy God and holy angels in a sinless heaven. All dishonesty, crookedness and deceit must be eliminated from their lives, and they must make straight paths for their feet. What saith the Scripture on this point? "Wash you, make you clean; put away the evil of

your doings from before mine eyes; cease to do evil; learn to do well; seek judgment, relieve the oppressed, judge the fatherless, plead for the widow." "Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord: tho your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; tho they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool." (Isa. 1:16-18.) God will not accept a person who will not straighten up and come to him clean handed. We can rest assured of the fact that heaven is one place where there are no liars, cheats, thieves or unclean people. For the God of heaven has plainly declared in His word that "There shall in no wise enter into it anything that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie." (Rev. 21:27.)

"But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death." (Rev. 21:8.)

The second noticeable similarity between constructing a railroad and making ready for heaven is in the fact that a railroad, generally speaking, is an elevated "highway;" that is, it is above the *common level*. At this point we are reminded of the undying words of the prophet Isaiah, in the sixty-second chapter and tenth verse, where he gave the following exhortation: "Go thru, go thru the gates; prepare ye the way of the people;

cast up, cast up the highway." Those who would be the Lord's alone, must live above the muck and mire of sin and debauchery and walk the highway of purity and uprightness.

The next impressive thought in connection with the construction of a railroad and the preparation of a soul for heaven is this: a railroad, generally speaking, is given the right-of-way. Nothing can impede its progress or stand in its way. Corner lots, mansions, farms and cemeteries, etc., all have to give place to the royal highway. Equally so it is with those who expect to gain heaven and live with God and angels forever. Nothing is to be considered of too great value to be given up for the "pearl of great price." How weighty the words of Jesus on this subject: "For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?" (Mark 8:36-37.) "And if thy hand offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter into life maimed, than having two hands to go into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched." (Mark 9:43.)

Lastly, railroads are constructed and maintained at an enormous expense; multiplied millions of dollars are required to put a railroad thru! Reader, did you ever stop to think what it cost the Son of God to purchase your redemption and make it possible for you to enter heaven? Think of Him leaving His Father and the society of Holy Angels, and coming to this cold, cruel,

sin-cursed world! Think how He humbled Himself, was born in a manger and lived a life of sacrifice, poverty and shame, so that you might become rich. Think how He struggled under the weight of your sins in dark Gethsemane until He sweat great drops of blood! See Him fainting beneath the cross while struggling to Calvary's bleak summit! See the cruel soldiers as they drive those huge spikes in His white hands and tender feet! Think of the untold misery while being upbraised on the cross! Think of Him, hanging for six hours by the nails in His hands and feet! Oh, what terrible anguish!

Reader, He suffered all of this for you. He took your place, and died that you might live. (Isa. 53:5.)

*"FOR God so loved the world, that
he gave his only begotten Son,
that whosoever believeth in him should
not perish, but have everlasting life.
For God sent not his Son into the world
to condemn the world; but that the
world, through him, might be saved."*

(Jno. 3:16, 17.)

CHAPTER II

THE “RAILROAD GUIDE”

It is remarkable what a great blessing the little book known as the “Railroad Guide” has become to traveling salesmen and railroad men. It has become an almost indispensable factor in that it furnishes the traveler with all desired information regarding railroad connections, trolley lines, hotels, etc. What this “Guide Book” is to railroad men, God has made the Bible to every son and daughter of Adam. The Psalmist has well said, “Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.” (Psa. 119:105.)

A wanderer once had to go a long and dangerous journey over a rugged and rocky mountain, and knew not the way. He asked a traveler for information; the traveler pointed out the road to him clearly and distinctly, told him of all the by-ways and precipices to shun, and the rocks he should climb. He also gave him a piece of paper, describing the way exactly. The wanderer observed all attentively, but, as he journeyed, the rocks grew steeper, and the way seemed to lose itself in the dreary ravines. His courage failed him; anxiously he looked up to the towering rocks, and cried, “It is impossible for man to ascend so steep

a path and to climb these rugged rocks. The wings of eagles, and the feet of the mountain goat, alone can do it." He turned back, thinking to return by the way he had come; but he heard a voice exclaiming, "Take courage, and follow me!" He looked around and beheld the man who had pointed out the way to him. He saw him walk steadily between the ravines and precipices and the rushing mountain-torrents. This inspired him with new confidence, and he followed vigorously. Before nightfall they had ascended the mountain, and a lovely valley, where blossomed the myrtle and pomegranate tree, received them at the end of their pilgrimage." Reader, what this guide was to the confused traveler, God has made His Word to the children of Adam who are straying on the mountain of sin. O weary wanderer, come home to Father's house!

"The Bible is the mirror of Divinity, the rightful regent of the world. Other books are planets shining with reflected lustre: this Book, like the sun, shines with ancient and unborrowed rays. Other books have sprung from earth to their loftiest altitudes; this Book looks down from high heaven. Other books appeal to the understanding or fancy; this Book to the conscience and to faith. Other books solicit our attention; this Book demands it; it speaks with authority. Other books guide gracefully along the earth, or onward to the mountain summits of their ideals; This, and This alone, conducts us up the awful abyss which

leads to heaven. Other books, after shining their season, may perish in flames fiercer than those which consumed the Alexandrian library; This, in essence, must remain pure as gold, and unconsumable amidst the flames of general conflagration. Other books may be forgotten in the universe where suns go down and disappear like bubbles in the stream; this Book, transferred to a higher clime, 'shall shine as the brightest of the eternal firmament, and as those higher stars, which are for ever and ever.' ”

CHAPTER III

THE IMPORTANCE OF OBEDIING ORDERS

While upon the shores of time, the public will never know the number of people who have lost their lives on railroad trains thru carelessness in obeying orders on the part of the train crew. While the world stands, the human family will never forget the following disasters which were the direct outcome of disobedience—the Slocum, the Titanic and the Eastland. In some countries it is considered a serious crime for an engineer to run his train past a red light. Oh, that men would use the same degree of precaution in dealing with eternal things and their immortal souls!

All thru the Bible God has hung out the red light—the danger signal—and yet men are rushing heedlessly on.

Notice in brief a few of these danger signals that are being ignored every day in the year: “He that being often reproved hardeneth his neck, shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy.” (Prov. 29:1.) “The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God.” (Psa. 9:17.)

“Except ye repent ye shall all likewise perish.” (Luke 13:3.) “Except ye be converted, and be-

come as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven." (Matt. 18:3.) "For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolator, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God." "Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God." (1 Cor. 6:9, 10.)

"Follow peace with all men, and Holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord." (Heb. 12:14.)

Reader, are you obeying orders? Remember the awful results of disobedience in both the railroad and spiritual world.

*“B*ECAUSE I have called, and ye refused; I have stretched out my hand, and no man regarded; But ye have set at nought all my counsel, and would none of my reproof: I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your fear cometh. . . . Then shall they call upon me, but I will not answer; they shall seek me early, but they shall not find me.” (Prov. 1:24,28.)

CHAPTER IV

KEEPING THE TRACK CLEAR

There are but few people who realize the tremendous importance as well as responsibility that rests upon railroad men in keeping the track clear. This is by no means an easy task, when we think of the many ways in which a railroad can be blockaded. The people in Jersey, and around New York City, will not soon forget the wreck of that high-class passenger train some eight or nine years ago in which many lives were lost. This awful wreck was said to have been caused by a piece of timber falling from a passing freight. By this time, no doubt, the reader has to some extent realized the importance of keeping the track clear.

If keeping the track clear is of such vast importance in the railroad world, what must it mean on the great highway from earth to heaven where men and women are running, not for a perishable reward, but for a crown of life? And the most important fact of all is, They Go This Way But Once. This trip means Weal or Woe.

The question may arise at this point, what does it require to keep the track clear? or how can it be done? We answer by the following suggestions. Beware of your old besetting sin. Shun evil companions and evil associates. Do not allow anyone to steal away the affections from the hus-

band or wife of your bosom. Do not allow yourself to get hasty and reckless, but keep a level head, a warm heart and a watchful spirit. Do not allow business to come between your soul and God. Do not allow anything to absorb your prayer-life. Do not allow any line of work to cause you to neglect the house of God. Be careful and not live above your income. This has caused many a man to become dishonest and steal. Do not get in the habit of borrowing money, pawning your goods or mortgaging your home. These things, too, open the way for a downfall. Do not be a flirt; neither make yourself fresh or forward with the opposite sex. How timely the words of the Apostle Paul are at this point: "Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall." (1 Cor. 10:12.) "For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world thru the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning. For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them. But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, the dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire." (2 Pet. 2:20, 22.)

Lastly comes the timely words of the Lord Jesus: "What I say unto you I say unto all, watch."

CHAPTER V

THE FREIGHT TRAIN

Among the many objects seen about a railroad that has deeply impressed the writer, as well as supplied him with much food for thought, was the freight train hurrying by with its ponderous burden. The engine with its many cars strikingly reminded him, first, of a human being hurrying thru time; and, secondly, of how one's influence affects those about them. No doubt if today our eyes were opened to behold the things unseen, we would see men and women in our community whose influences were dragging a long string of human beings from innocence to guilt, from purity to rank defilement, from joy to anguish, from hope to despair, and from earth to hell.

Let us more narrowly observe the object lesson before us and note the similarity existing between the freight train and a human being.

1. The train consisted of various sizes and colors of cars, many empty, and others loaded. So the influence of a bad man or bad woman in a community not only affects the useless and good-for-nothing part of mankind, but the innocent youth, the virtuous maid, as well as the very cream of society. We can never tell in this world to

what extent our children have been affected by hearing just one man swear in the street, or seeing him enter a saloon just once.

A boy once saw a man stealing an article. That one act influenced the boy's life in after years, as evidenced by the course he pursued.

Reader, remember you are daily wielding an influence that is dragging someone after you, either to heaven or hell. That hasty word, that word of pride or scorn, falling from your lips, produces a momentary impression. And that is all? No, it is not all. It deepened that man's disgust at godliness, and it sharpened the edge of that man's sarcasm, and it shamed that half-converted one out of his penitent misgivings, and it produced an eternal influence on the destiny of an immortal soul.

2. The second way in which the freight cars resembled an individual being affected by the influence of another was in the fact that they continued to move in the same direction that the engine did. Young men who are daily being influenced by drunkards, pickpockets and gamblers may not become bold, out-broken, full-fledged outlaws in the first few years, notwithstanding the fact that every day, week, month or year that passes over their heads finds them moving in that direction.

The last thing about the freight train that deeply impressed us was in the fact that the cars continued to pass by us for some length of time after

the engine was out of sight around the curve. How true this is with people's influences, even after they have been dead for many years. The pernicious influence of Ingersoll, Payne and Hume are still in the world today affecting immortal souls. Equally so is the influence of Paul, Wesley, Fletcher and Whitfield still felt in the world uplifting humanity. Reader, what kind of an influence are you wielding today? Is it lifting men to heaven or dragging them to hell?

*"I WILL arise and go to my father,
and will say unto him, Father, I
have sinned against heaven, and before
thee. And am no more worthy to be
called thy son: make me as one of thy
hired servants. . . . But the father
said to his servants, Bring forth the best
robe and put it on him. . . . And
bring hither the fatted calf, and kill it,
and let us eat and be merry. (Luke
15:18, 23.) Likewise joy shall be in
heaven over one sinner that repenteth."
(Luke 15:7.)*

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CHAPTER VI

THE MANY SIDETRACKS

Some years ago, when the writer was traveling East on the main line of the Erie Railroad, he noticed, after going fifteen or twenty miles east of Jamestown, New York, that his train was gradually turning from the main line and going north-east toward Buffalo. It took him some little time, however, to realize that his train was really turning from the main line, for the simple reason that the deviation was so gradual. When his train first entered upon the sidetrack, it was hardly noticeable at all, because the side track for some distance ran parallel with the main line, and then gradually turned in another direction.

The first thing that came between the sidetrack and the main line was a few bushy shrubs, then a small clump of trees, then a small river, then a dense forest, and finally miles of territory.

This little circumstance was a powerful reminder of the many sidetracks Satan has laid along the main line of true Christianity. He has succeeded in running thousands of good, well-meaning people off the main line onto Christian Science, Russellism, Tonguesism, Adventistism, Universalism and numberless other sidetracks.

It is true they somewhat resemble the main line, and lead in that direction for a while, but finally go down to death and endless woe.

The next thought connected with the sidetrack that deeply impressed the writer was as follows: it was impossible for the train to short-cut across the country and get back to the main line. The only way in which it could do so was to go clear back to the place where it turned from the track. There was no other way in which it could be done. Oh, what a blessing it would be to the cause of God if our dear brethren who have gone off into error would back-track and go to the main line and start over again! They are trying to correct their mistakes and regain the confidence of their brethren by getting up more steam, running faster, having more meetings, more conventions, and also by giving out great, high-sounding reports of their work, but it all fails to accomplish the desired end.

O what a difficult task it is to get some people to confess and rectify their mistakes!

“B^E not deceived; God is not mocked; for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.” (Gal. 6:7, 8.)

CHAPTER VII

THE BOGUS TICKET

As we swept across the continent some years ago returning from the Pacific Coast, there arose a dispute between the conductor and one of the lady passengers. The trouble, however, seemed to have originated from the fact that the lady's ticket was not good. This, of course, could only result in either her paying another fare for a continued trip or getting off the train at the next station. The trouble was not because she did not have *a ticket*, but because she did not have *the right kind* of a ticket.

Oh, what a field of thought this little circumstance opened up in the mind of the writer! It strikingly reminded him of the many people that he had heard and read about, who, after traveling across the broad plains of life on the lightning express of time, and who, on arriving at the suspension bridge of the "Jordan of Death," awoke to the fact that they had been deceived by Satan, the religious "scalper," and were in possession of the wrong religion.

Some years ago in the State of Tennessee a woman who had permitted Satan to sell her a bogus religion—one that would allow her to lie,

steal, go to theaters, drink beer and do many other such things, was stricken with a serious illness. However, during her lifetime she had been quite a worker in the church, but had never been "born again"—born of the Spirit of God. She had testified, however, for upward of thirty years, stating that she had received the "new birth," but was only playing the hypocrite. A day or so before the end drew near she opened up her heart to those about her and frankly told them that she had never been in possession of the genuine religion. During her illness she had so fallen away in flesh that scarcely anything but skin lay over her bones: her eyes were sunken and she presented such a satanic appearance that many of the church members were afraid of her and fled from the death chamber. Her dying testimony, in substance, was, "I am lost forever; I am going to hell." During the two days her remains lay in the home awaiting the funeral service a severe electric storm swept over the city, and at the cemetery, as the casket was being lowered into the grave, it was struck by lightning, and the people fled, terror-stricken.

A very dear friend of the writer, who for years made his home in the city of New Orleans, La., told of a man in that city who had allowed Satan to sell him a "bogus religion," namely, a religion that would allow him to frequently wander into forbidden paths and belong to the church at the same time. One night about twelve or one o'clock, as he was returning home to his wife from one of

his frequented by-paths, on passing an old empty lodge hall he declared that a little animal similar to a black cat ran out of the yard and leaped upon his back. This, of course, frightened him, and he began to run and scream; but the faster he ran, the heavier the little animal became, until it felt as heavy as a bale of cotton. Being exhausted as well as frightened almost out of his wits, he ran and fell into a neighbor's door, screaming at the top of his voice. He said a voice spoke to him while running down the street, and told him his time was up. Therefore, about dawn the next morning, on Farret Street in the City of New Orleans, La., he passed into eternity a lost soul.

He had failed to pay the full price. He had not obtained a religion that would keep him from sinning and wandering into forbidden paths.

Reader, beware!

“**T**HERE is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death. (Prov. 16:25.) Who leave the path of uprightness, to walk in the ways of darkness. . . . Whose ways are crooked, and they froward in their paths.” (Prov. 2:13, 15.)

CHAPTER VIII

THE TURNTABLE

We have noticed while in and about railroad yards and roundhouses that provision is made to turn around even the most gigantic engine with ease. This is done by a rotating platform arranged for that special purpose. We realize to some extent the disadvantages to railroad men if there were no way of turning these engines. Mechanical genius, however, has relieved them of this great disadvantage by producing what is known as the turntable.

At this point we are glad to break the news to the reader that the God of Heaven, thru his Son, has erected one of these rotating platforms along the highway of moral conduct, and thus made it possible for the vilest sinner to turn from his evil ways and live. This turntable, however, is better known to the children of men by the following title, namely, "Repentance."

John the Baptist, the forerunner of the Saviour, came preaching repentance. Jesus Christ, the world's Redeemer, cried, "Except ye repent ye shall all likewise perish." Peter and the other apostles cried, "Repent ye and believe the gospel." And in every age since that time God has

sent faithful messengers to warn men day and night to "*Turn or burn.*"

It is true there are many hard and difficult cases in the world today, but none more vile than Mary Magdalene, out of whom went seven devils, and none more dishonest and crooked than Zaccheus, the tax collector, and none more wicked at heart than Saul of Tarsus, the chief of sinners. All of these and millions more have been turned face about by the great turntable of the grace of God, and instead of traveling downgrade, toward the lower regions, they have been running up the highway of holiness, and landing in the city of fadeless day for nearly two thousand years. Hallelujah!

CHAPTER IX

THE SUDDEN WRECK

Some weeks ago, as two young men were flying thru the State of Missouri en route for Chicago, drinking, swearing and reveling, all of a sudden they felt a heavy jar, and heard a loud crash, and then all was confusion. The cars had suddenly jumped the rails and lay in splintered heaps upon the ground. While one of the young men lay amid the ruins unconscious, with a broken limb and two or three broken ribs, his comrade lay beheaded in a pool of blood beneath the debris. Oh, what a sudden change! What a striking contrast! What an awful passage! Going from the wineglass, the cards and the mirthful crowd into the calm, deep silence of eternity, into the presence of a Holy God, whose laws he had long despised and whose name he had learned to blaspheme from life's early morning.

Thru this sad accident we were again reminded of the solemn precaution of the wise man of old in the following words: "Boast not thyself of tomorrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth." (Prov. 27:1.) "For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time; and then vanisheth away." (Jas. 4:14.) Oh, how necessary it is for men to be "Also ready," that is, be ready all the while, for in the midst of life we are in death. We should

ever bear this thought in mind: That on our brightest and healthiest days we are within one heart's beat of eternity, and the only partition between us and heaven or hell is a little air in our lungs. Oh, how near we are to eternity! Reader, how can you afford to trifle and defer the salvation of your never-dying soul?

And am I only born to die?
And must I suddenly comply
With nature's stern decree?
What after death for me remains?
Celestial joys, or hellish pains,
To all eternity!

How then on earth ought I to live,
While God prolongs the kind reprieve,
And props the house of clay?
My sole concern, my single care,
To watch and tremble and prepare
Against that fatal day.

No room for mirth or trifling here,
For worldly hope, or worldly fear,
If life so soon is gone;
If now the judge is at the door,
And all mankind must stand before
The inexorable throne.

How vain is all beneath the skies!
How transient every earthly bliss!
How slender all the fondest ties
That bind us to a world like this!

“IN my distress I called upon the Lord, and cried unto my God: he heard my voice out of his temple, and my cry came before him, even unto his ears. (Psa. 18:6.) This poor man cried, and the Lord heard him, and saved him out of all his troubles.”
(Psa. 34:6.)

CHAPTER X

THE PORTER AND THE GRIP

Not a great while ago a business man, on boarding a sleeping car for California, left his grip in charge of the porter for safe-keeping. When he reached California and opened his grip at the hotel, he discovered that it had been opened and plundered. After spending several weeks on the coast, the time came when he must return home. Providentially, on boarding the train, he discovered the fact that the same porter was in charge of the sleeper in which he was to return. He handed the porter his grip for safe-keeping as before and took his seat. His grip, however, did not contain anything of special value this time; only a few trinkets and a small California garter snake which he was taking home for curiosity. As the shades of night came on, the porter began making up the berths so the passengers could retire. After every one had retired and the night was growing old, he took the man's grip into the little provision closet, locked himself in, turned on the light, and with his skeleton keys opened the grip and proceeded to plunder it as before. But to his surprise and consternation, as he pushed aside some of its contents, lo and behold,

the little snake lifted its head and slid out of the grip. The terror-stricken porter could not have made more noise or a greater effort to get out of the closet if he had been shut in with an African lion. The owner of the grip, however, on hearing the noise and commotion, was not at all alarmed, but immediately took in the situation.

This porter was a dishonest man and for a long time had kept up this form of stealing on the sly. But, alas, the time came when his sins found him out. So it is with every dishonest man and woman in the world.

It is true they may evade being detected for many years, but some day, somewhere, the covering will be pulled off and their wickedness brought to light. We frankly admit that there are many secret sins and hidden crimes that may never come to light in this world, but there is coming a day when the secrets of all hearts shall be disclosed before an assembled universe. Every act, and word, and thought—all that comes under the head of moral right or wrong—all that constitutes character, morally good or bad—will be brought into view and taken into account.

What an astonishing revelation of hidden things will then take place! What an exposure of midnight crime! What a mirror of lives! What an unfolding of hearts!

“For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.” (Ecc. 12:14.)

CHAPTER XI

BURNING OIL

When out on the Pacific Coast we were surprised to see that instead of the railroad company using coal for fuel they were burning oil. The fireman no longer had to toil, shovel and perspire to keep up steam, but only had to turn on the oil and light the burners, and immediately things began to move. Oh, how strikingly this reminds us of the Spirit-filled life! There are hundreds of converted people thru the land today who, like the fireman, are working, tugging and having a hard time to keep the victory and live for the Lord. They are finding it so difficult to love their neighbor as themselves—love, pray for and bless their enemies, etc. They are also finding it still more difficult to rejoice evermore, pray without ceasing and in everything give thanks. On reading the nineteenth chapter of the Acts of the Apostles, it appears that St. Paul came in contact with a similar crowd of professed Christians, whose Christianity consisted largely of works. His prescription to them, however, was, "Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed? And they said unto him, we have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost." (Acts 19:2.)

So very well the writer remembers the time when he was a dry, joyless, long-faced, legalistic church member, not knowing whether there was any Holy Ghost or not. And, like the coal-shoveling fireman, he was puffing, pulling and struggling, trying to serve the Lord in his "weak way," when behold he was told that instead of having those uneven, spasmodic fires, he could have an oil-burner put in, namely, the Holy Ghost, and fire which would give him a constant, even and steady blaze the year round.

So he went to headquarters (viz., the upper room), and filled out the application and paid the price, which was confession, self-abnegation, persevering prayer, crucifixion and faith, and immediately received the new apparatus, and a fathomless, shoreless sea of oil thrown in to keep it burning.

Our motto now is no longer "Sometimes up and sometimes down." For the promise is: "The sun shall be no more thy light by day; neither for brightness shall the moon give light unto thee: but the Lord shall be unto thee an everlasting light, and thy God thy glory. Thy sun shall no more go down; neither shall thy moon withdraw itself: for the Lord shall be thine everlasting light, and the days of thy mourning shall be ended." (Isa. 60:19:20.)

Oh, how much better it is to burn oil, reader, than it is to shovel coal! Which are you doing?

"AND be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit. (Eph. 5:18.) For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness. (1 Thess. 4:7.) Because it is written, Be ye holy for I am holy." (1 Pet. 1:16.)

CHAPTER XII

CARS IN MOTION AFTER BEING DETACHED

One day in a railroad yard where a switch engine was at work shifting cars and making up trains, we noticed that even after the engine was uncoupled from the cars they still kept in motion. On spiritually applying this little instance, we obtained from it a sad but impressive lesson. Thru this lesson we were instantly reminded of the many, many dear ones in the church today who once were in vital touch with the Saviour and whose hearts were once all aflame with His love. For some reason, however, these dear ones have allowed pleasure, self-love and self-indulgence to come in and sever their connection with the Saviour and thus quench the flow of love. However, notwithstanding the fact that they are thus disconnected, they still keep up their profession by continuing to pray, testify and take an active part in the religious work. If they would be honest and frankly confess that they have broken with the Saviour and lost Him out of their lives, and then either go forward for prayer or else have their names dropped from the church roll, it would be a blessing to the church: but instead of taking these steps, they go right along year in and year

out, pretending to be live, active Christians. Is there any marvel that the church is suffering such marked defeat?

A second way in which we have seen some people retain their spiritual motion after being disconnected from the Saviour, is when a minister who has fallen from grace and has also been silenced and expelled from the conference, that instead of humbling himself, confessing, repenting and making things right with God and his brethren, he goes to a distant city, joins another denomination and continues in the ministry.

Oh, the many, many ministers who are in this sad condition today!

It is too bad that King Saul could not have been the only one who tried to keep up his spiritual motion after breaking with the Lord.

“COME unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly at heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light. (Matt. 11:28, 30.) And the Spirit and the bride say, come. And let him that heareth say, come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.” (Rev. 22:17.)

CHAPTER XIII

THE HOTBOX

Some years ago as we were sweeping across the State of Mississippi en route from Mobile, Alabama, at a high rate of speed, our train was suddenly brought to a standstill far out in an open plain. The trainmen immediately stepped off and rushed forward to one of the front cars with a bundle of cotton waste and a bucket of oil. This told the story without any further inquiry, for as we raised the window and looked up the line of cars, we discovered that the truck of one of them was ablaze from a hotbox.

After ten or fifteen minutes' faithful labor the trainmen succeeded in extinguishing the flames, cooling things down and starting up the train again.

This hotbox was the result of *too much speed* and *too little oil*. The fire was all right while it remained in the engine furnace, but it made trouble when it got into the axle and wheels.

Occasionally the church and train of salvation is halted and suffers a great loss as well as reproach over a hotbox of fanaticism, which is generally the result of "Zeal not according to knowledge," and also a yielding to "wild fire,"

rather than Holy Ghost fire. Of a truth, in many places the cause of Jesus Christ has received deeper wounds from the hands of cranks and fanatics than it has from agnostics and infidels. Many a good, honest soul has been frightened away from taking the way of God thru the unwise conduct of some religious fanatics. They discarded the whole thing simply because the fanatic overstepped the mark and went too far. What they should have done was not to censure the religion of Jesus Christ, but search the Scripture and see what it requires of them, and then act accordingly.

For we are not to be judged on the last day by the conduct of men, but by the word of God. "Uncle Sam" has had much trouble with thieves who have counterfeited his large gold coins. It is done in a very cunning way. A very small bit is used to drill a small hole in the edge of the coin and drill out the inside, fill the space with some cheap metal, plug up the hole with the genuine and pass it on the public. The devil does his work much in the same way. A fanatic is a ruined saint: in many respects he is just as he always was, but in other respects is a counterfeit.

There are only three ways to test gold coins: first, by the ring; second, by the acid; and third, by the weight. The common people might never find any flaw in the coin, but the banker is always on the lookout for the spurious. He throws the coin on the counter, and the ring is not right; he

compares it with another coin, but the ring is not genuine. He applies the acid; it stands the test all right. He next puts it on the scales. Ah! there it is; it is too light. The coin is closely examined, and he sees a little hurt in the edge. The coin is cut in two and, behold! the whole mystery is solved. The coin is ruined. These three tests can be applied and should be applied to the doubtful—the ring, the acid, and the weight. The shouts, hoots and yells of the fanatic have a brazen thud about them that do not sound as they used to. The charm and the music have gone; they sound much like a cracked bell; something is the matter, but, like the ruined coin, they seem to stand the acid test.

Advice, rebuke, suspension, imprisonment, yea, death, will not color the shout. It will stand all that. But on the third test, weighing it with the Bible truth, it will be found wanting. It will not stand the Bible test, and when, like the coin, the thing is split open, then the nasty work of the thief will be exposed.

"THERE hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it." (1 Cor. 10:13.)

CHAPTER XIV

THE DEAD ENGINEER

It was reported that at a railroad depot in Canada some time ago, the station agent, the "red-cap" porters, and a large company of citizens, who were expecting their friends, went out to meet the incoming train, as it was due and had been spied coming down the railroad yard.

The train failed to slow down as usual, but came rushing right on with a fearful speed under the shed, and on up thru the depot fence and thru the depot walls, while the people fled terror-stricken. The engine plowed its way thru both depot walls and dropped over an embankment into the street. The cause of all this was due to the fact that the engineer had died suddenly while sitting in the cab with his hand upon the throttle.

Reader, think of a dead man running a train freighted with human cargo for fifteen or twenty miles. Oh, think of the horrible sight!

It is sad, however, yet true, that this same thing is being repeated a thousand times in the religious world today. There are numberless churches with large congregations thruout the country which should have a wide-awake, spirit-filled and spirit-led engineer at the throttle to safely pilot them

thru the swamp of worldliness, up the long grade of opposition, and safely by the numberless side-tracks of error and compromise into the glory world. But, lo and behold, a man is sitting in the cab with his hand on the throttle who never has been born of the Spirit of God. Is there any marvel that we do not see any more oldtime revivals, and that the majority of modern church members see no wrong in dancing, card-playing, theater-going and such things?

Oh, think of a dead watchman on the walls of Zion—a dead engineer in the cab of the gospel train! Is there any marvel that such ministers dive so deeply into politics, baseball, football; besides become so immoral in practice, and, lastly, plead for sin and oppose holy living more tenaciously than rum-sellers.

Says Wesley: “But how terrible is this! when the ambassadors of God turn agents for the devil! When they who are commissioned to teach men the way to heaven, do in fact teach the way to hell. If ever asked, ‘Why, who does this?’ I answer, ‘Ten thousand wise and honorable men; even all of those, of whatever denomination, who encourage the proud, the trifler, the passionate, the lover of the world, the man of pleasure, the unjust of mankind, the easy, careless, harmless, useless creatures, the man who suffers no persecution for righteousness’ sake, to imagine he is in the way to heaven. These are false prophets, in the highest sense of the word. These are traitors both to

God and man. These are no other than the first-born of Satan; the eldest son of Apollyon, the destroyer. These are far above the rank of ordinary cut-throats; for they murder the souls of men. They are continually peopling the realms of night; and whenever they follow the poor souls they have destroyed, hell shall be moved from beneath to meet them at their coming."

Oh, reader, is there a dead engineer heading your train? If so, what else can you expect but for yourself and family to finally land in the ditch of endless woe?

CHAPTER XV

THE REAR WHEELS OFF THE TRACK

The engineer on a certain railroad one day in the State of Michigan noticed that his train was running heavier and heavier all the while, even on a level track. Yes, in spite of all the firing up the fireman could do, or the puffing of the engine, the train could not be brought up to its normal speed.

On looking back while rounding a curve, instantly the difficulty was located. The engineer awoke to the fact that the rear wheels of the last coach were off the track, and had been tearing up and wrecking the track for two miles behind them.

Many years ago, when the Israelites were en route to the promised land, their leader, Joshua, had a similar experience. He noticed the wheels of conquest running heavily, and the shadows of defeat rapidly gathering on every side. On making an investigation, he discovered that the "Achanite Chair Car" had been off the track for two days, and during that time was causing death and dire defeat, almost from one end of the train to the other.

It is often the case nowadays that while the pastor and part of the membership are struggling, fasting and praying, to bring up the spiritual end

of the church, the ease-seeking, pleasure-loving, fault-finding, criticising, nonspiritual part of the members are pulling back and causing the train of salvation to run heavily. And what is worse still, their influences are daily tearing up the track and bringing the cause of God into disrepute.

It would be a great blessing to many a church if, like Gideon of old, they would put on the sieve and reduce their membership from thirty-two thousand to three hundred. I am quite sure they would make better spiritual progress, for, as it is at present, they are pulling too much dead weight and thus losing ground each passing year.

CHAPTER XVI

THE CLOSED HOTEL

Railroad men and traveling salesmen know something of the disadvantage and perplexity that one experiences on arriving in a strange village or country town after dark, and finding the hotel closed for the night. With his suit cases, the traveler standing in the dark at a closed hotel door, strikingly reminds us of the five foolish virgins whom the Saviour spoke about in the following parable: "Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins, which took their lamps and went forth to meet the bridegroom. And five of them were wise, and five of them were foolish. They that were foolish took their lamps, and took no oil with them: but the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept. And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him. Then all those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps. And the foolish said unto the wise, Give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out. But the wise answered, saying, Not so; lest there be not enough for us and you: but go ye rather to them that sell, and buy for yourselves. And while they went to

buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: And The Door Was Shut. Afterward came also the other virgins, saying, Lord, Lord, open to us. But He answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not." (Matt. 25:1-12.)

Some years ago I was laboring as an evangelist in the town of M——, and during the meeting there was much conviction by the power of the Holy Ghost. Among others that were wrought upon was a young girl of about seventeen years. All thru the meeting the Holy Ghost strove with her, and I talked with her at different times, but she resisted.

The last evening of the service I went to her side. Again she stood weeping and trembling. I urged her to seek God. She said, "Oh, I cannot, I cannot!" I replied, "Yes; leave your young friends and come." She still said, "Oh, I cannot, I cannot!" Afterwards she said that the young people would have laughed at her had she gone. She left the house in this condition, went to her boarding place (she was boarding and attending school), and made the remark that she did not come to M—— to get religion—she came to get an education. She could attend to religion afterward at any time.

She retired for the night, but was taken violently ill, and continued to grow worse for one week, and then passed into eternity. She said to those of her young associates who came to see her: "Oh,

I ought to have sought the Lord in that meeting!"
I was with her the last day, and before she died
I tried to point her to the Lamb of God, but her
agonizing reply again and again was (calling me
by name), "It is too late now. Oh, it is too late
now! There is no help for me!" and so passed
into eternity.

The door of opportunity is closed,
Once mercy held it open wide for thee;
God offered possibilities untold,
But thou wert slothful and refused to see.

CHAPTER XVII

THE TRAVELER'S INSURANCE POLICY

When purchasing a railroad ticket, the purchaser is generally asked by the ticket agent if he cares to insure himself against accident or death during the trip.

We are glad to inform every son and daughter of Adam upon earth that God's blessed old Bible contains the best insurance policies for people en route to the judgment and never-ending eternity that can be found in any place upon earth.

Listen, reader, while we mention a few of them: "Behold, I am with thee, and will keep thee in all places whither thou goest." (Gen. 28:15.) "I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing. And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee." (Gen. 12:2:3.)

"Even by the God of thy father, who shall help thee; and by the Almighty, who shall bless thee with the blessings of heaven above, blessings of the deep that lieth under." (Gen. 49:25.)

"He that dwelleth in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the Lord, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in Him will I trust.

Surely He shall deliver thee from the snare of the fowler, and from the noisome pestilence. He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under His wings shalt thou trust: his truth shall be thy shield and buckler. Thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night; nor for the arrow that flieth by day; nor for the pestilence that walketh in darkness; nor for the destruction that wasteth at noonday. A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand; but it shall not come nigh thee. . . . There shall be no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling. . . . I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him, and honor him. With long life will I satisfy him, and shew him my salvation.” (Psl. 91.)

“When they went from one nation to another, from one kingdom to another people; He suffered no man to do them wrong: yea, he reproved kings for their sakes; saying, Touch not Mine anointed, and do my prophets no harm.” (Psl. 105:13-15.)

“Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy, to the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.” (Jude 24:25.)

CHAPTER XVIII

THE TUNNEL

Every one who has traveled to any extent knows what it means for the train to be gliding along at high speed beneath the meridian blaze of the sun, and fanned by Zephyr's viewless wing, when all of a sudden it darts into a tunnel draped with smoke and midnight gloom. From all appearances it seems to the traveler as if the sun had set and that it was well nigh the noon of night.

Every Christian in the world has or will at some time pass thru a similar experience. Many a time as the writer was speeding along the highway of the Christian life, with an unclouded assurance of his acceptance with God, all of a sudden his sky would darken up, while tightness and pressure settled upon him like a pall. The first few times in which this occurred he became greatly alarmed over the matter, and went to the Lord to find out if he had lost his religion or not; but was gently informed that it was only a tunnel, namely, a shorter cut to heaven. The writer then, of course, contented himself as much as possible under the circumstances, but was tremendously glad when he reached the end of the tunnel and saw the sun again.

The tunnel experience, however, taught him the following lessons:

1. He discovered with great joy and gratitude that God was just as well pleased with him, and that the sun shone equally as bright when he was cast down, tempted and pressed as when he felt greatly lifted up.

2. He also learned, by God taking him thru the tunnel, that God's method was not to take people *Over* and *Around* difficulties and hard places, but to take them *thru*. He did not take Daniel around the lions' den, but thru.

Neither did he take the Hebrew boys around the fiery furnace. His promise is: "When thou passest *thru* the waters, I will be with thee; and *thru* the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest *thru* the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee." (Isa. 43:2.)

3. The writer also discovered the fact that the tunnel experience was God's most effectual method of *regulating him, reining him up* and causing him to walk *more carefully and watchfully*.

4. Lastly, the tunnel experience was the Striking Contrast which the Spirit used to reveal to him how sweet and precious Jesus was to him, and how unhappy he would be without Him. This, of course, caused the writer to have less horror for the tunnel experience.

CHAPTER XIX

PULLING UP GRADE

Again, among the many things connected with railroad life that has deeply impressed us, as well as furnished food for thought, was when a heavily loaded freight train was going up grade. There are many features about it that remind us of the faithful Christian:

1. The train does not run as fast up grade as it does when on a level, and yet, it still keeps pushing forward. So it is with the child of God. There are times in his Christian experience when everything seems to work right against him. But this is the time when, like the giant freight engine, he must hold on and push ahead by faith and prayer; and by so doing will overtop the hill of difficulty. "*Stand fast*" and "*Hold fast*" are two very excellent maxims for the Christian to keep in mind. Many times we may not be able to accomplish much, nevertheless we can still continue to *hold on*.

2. A second noticeable fact about a freight train pulling a grade is this: It requires a great deal more steam to climb a grade than to run on the level. Therefore, whenever the child of God discovers that there is a long grade before him to be

made, he should immediately call upon the Lord for a new supply of grace, so that he may climb it without growing touchy, impatient or sour. The disciples, in the fourth chapter of the Acts of the Apostles, were not at all backward in calling upon the Lord for more grace with which to pull up the hill of difficulty. "And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness." (Acts 4:31.)

3. Still another amusing feature about the freight pulling the grade is this: while undergoing this heavy strain, the engineer does not waste his steam in blowing the whistle. He reserves it all with which to pull and make the grade. This may account for the reason why we are not flooded with joy and ecstasy when depressed and in heaviness thru manifold temptation. However, some people rather prefer blowing the whistle to pulling cargo: but God is more glorified in the latter. It must ever be kept in mind that burden and pressure precede all fruit-bearing in both the natural and the spiritual.

4. A fourth thought that the grade suggests is this: it usually is the forerunner of a great blessing. The longer and the steeper the grade, the more easy and free-footed we can travel after we get beyond it. If we are faithful, a great spiritual uplift always follows a long, hard pull.

Zacharias found it so after overtopping the long hill of dumbness. The hundred and twenty found it so after pulling a long grade for ten days. Paul found it so after pulling a steep grade with his eyes shut, and without bread or water for three days. Praise God!

*“THE Lord is merciful and gracious,
slow to anger, and plenteous in
mercy. He will not always chide:
neither will he keep his anger for ever.
(Psa. 103:8,9.) Like as a father pitieh
his children, so the Lord pitieh them
that fear him.” (Psa. 103:13.)*

CHAPTER XX

THE REAR VIEW

There is one unpleasant feature connected with passing thru a city or town on a railroad train, and that is, one rarely ever obtains a correct view of the city, as only the rear of the places of interest can be seen. When riding in a street car, we pass the front way, and thereby get a correct view of things, but, when entering a city on a steam car, we see principally the back porches, the wood-sheds, the back yards and the rough board fences. All is seen from the rear. The beauty is on the other side.

So it is in serving God by faith. At present we only see thru a glass darkly, but by and bye, face to face. "Then shall we know even as also we are known." At present God's providence and leadings sometimes appear unreasonable and strange. It is quite difficult for the heartbroken mother who is sobbing beside the casket of her child to attribute its death to the work of unfailing mercy and boundless love. From our narrow view-point it is quite difficult to see how that the loss of cattle, wealth, friends, children and health could work out endless gain for afflicted Job.

Again, from our narrow cell and hazy viewpoint,

even the death of a child of God seems painful and awful. But this is only due to our seeing things from the back yard viewpoint. If we could go around the front and behold things from eternity's standpoint, we would only see death as a messenger from a distant land, bringing us good news of our Saviour, the Bridegroom of our souls, and of the inheritance which he has purchased with His blood and reserves for us in heaven. What care we altho the messenger have an ugly face, be armed with a long dart, wear a tattered coat, and knock rudely at our doors?

When faith is strong, and conscience clear,
And words of peace the Spirit cheer,
And visioned glories half appear,
'Tis joy, 'tis triumph then to die.

CHAPTER XXI

THE BUMPER

No doubt the reader has noticed while in or about a railroad yard a large piece of timber, standing upright at the end of each track, with a large iron plate in front of it. This is known in railroad parlance as a bumper, and is used to prevent cars which are standing on the siding from being pushed off the track. This barrier is placed there for the specific purpose of being *bumped against* and *run into*. It would be of no service whatever if it never got run into and bumped up against. It is not placed there to fire the engine, unlock the cars, nor for a nightwatchman, but to be *bumped against*.

Possibly if the cars could talk, they would all frankly admit that this bumper was quite a trial to them, from the fact that when they are rolling along on the track attending to their own business, it gets in their way and bumps up against them. Quite likely if a motion was made to have old brother "Bumper" turned out of the railroad yard, they would vote unanimously to have it done.

We feel safe in saying that there is one of these "Bumper" characters in almost, if not every, church in the world. No matter how large the

membership or how small. No matter how good the people may be or how bad, there is always a quaint, unlovable, contentious, forward, meddlesome person among them, who is a constant trial to every member in the church. Sometimes they feel if that person would withdraw from the church or die it would be a great blessing to the church. And strange as it may appear, if that person does leave town or go to eternity, another bumper bobs up in his place.

It is true, a person of this disposition is quite annoying and no small trial to the people of God; and yet such a person is more faithful to reveal our faults and show us what our hearts contain than our best friend upon earth. They will cause us to pray, dig and work on ourselves more than the preacher's sermons.

Sometimes they will bump up against us with an untimely reproof, while at another time they will bump up against us with a sharp criticism, while at still another time with a glaring falsehood. O, how keenly we feel this! O, how it makes our hearts bleed, and our eyes overflow with tears. This rude treatment, however, will be good for us for several reasons. It will develop in us the following graces: patience, humility and a forgiving spirit. We need some one to occasionally cross us, go against the grain and probe us; and thus cause us to know more perfectly what kind of a spirit we possess.

The lawyer accomplishes far more by cross-

questioning the witness than by asking him straight questions.

Many times one of these bumpers is located in the shop, the store, the factory and the office where we daily labor. However, let us be contented to let them remain and not vote to have them removed.

CHAPTER XXII

STOPPING FOR WATER AND COAL

In arranging the schedule the railroad company so plans it that no time is lost when the train stops to take water and coal. It is true the impatient passengers may sometimes feel that it is losing time by stopping at the water tank and coal-shed, but it is not true.

This would be an excellent lesson for gospel workers and evangelists to learn. They have unfortunately imbibed the idea that they must go the year around at break-neck speed so to speak, not even stopping a few days for relaxation. They seem to think if they would stop and be quiet a few days it would put them on the list of backsliders; hence they continue to go at that high speed until they finally collapse and drop down nervous wrecks, and become expensive burdens to their wives, their parents, their friends or church the balance of their days. Would it not have been far better not to have made their engagements so close together, but reserved a little time between each one for recuperation and prayer? This is no doubt the chief cause why so many evangelists and gospel workers wear out so quickly, both in health and usefulness. If one would have the power of God

attend their labor, give them souls for their hire and keep them supplied with new sermons and revival material, it will be absolutely necessary for them to occasionally run in on a side track, coal up and take on water by having a siege of digging down, fasting, praying and self-examination. Just as electric storage batteries have to be re-charged every now and then, so do gospel workers. If they do not give attention to this they will grow tame, unctionless and powerless. They may speak nicely and say many good, true things, yet it will be void of the unction and fire.

*"THEN shall ye call upon me, and
ye shall go and pray unto me, and
I will hearken unto you. And ye shall
seek me, and find me, when ye shall
search for me with all your heart."*
(Jer. 29:12, 13.)

CHAPTER XXIII

THE TELEGRAPH SYSTEM

One of the most remarkable features connected with the railroad is the telegraph system, thru which a provision is made for the trainmen to hear from headquarters at every station along the way.

We are glad to say right here that science has not gotten ahead of the God of heaven at this point, for even as far back as the days of Cain, pious Abel and holy Enoch, he had a wireless telegraph system in operation between heaven and earth.

Now for fear that the reader might doubt the truthfulness of this statement let us briefly retrospect the path of finished time and notice some of the people who used it, and also from what stations.

The first place we notice conversation being held between heaven and earth and God and man is in Genesis (4:6, 9). "And the Lord said unto Cain, why are thou wroth? and why is thy countenance fallen? If thou dost well, shalt thou not be accepted? . . . And the Lord said unto Cain, Where is Abel thy brother? And he said, I know not: am I my brother's keeper?"

The next place we find the supernatural "Wireless" in operation between heaven and earth is

seen in Genesis (15:1, 2). "After these things the word of the Lord came unto Abram in a vision, saying, Fear not, Abram: I am thy shield, and thy exceeding great reward. And Abram said, Lord God, what wilt thou give me, seeing I go childless."

Our time and space will not permit us to write all about Hagar receiving a message at "Wildernessville," Moses at "Neboheights," Daniel at "Lion's Hollow," the Hebrew boys at "Furnace-dale," Jonah at "Whalesburg," Peter at "Jail City," and Saint John on "Patmos-Ridge."

O, what a blessed thought it is that God has made it possible for his children to hear from headquarters all along the line! Besides, He has left the following promises on record for our encouragement, "He shall call upon me, and I will answer him." (Psa. 91:15.) "Call unto me and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not." (Jer. 33:3.)

Let us next notice a few of the many ways in which the telegraph system somewhat resembles the supernatural system between heaven and earth.

1. The telegraph office is open night and day, so that travelers can send a message any time. So is it with the supernatural system. Notice how the record reads. . . . "Behold, he that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep." (Psa. 121:4.)

2. The message is received in sounds and impressions by the operator thru a very small ma-

chine. Just so does the spirit speak to the children of God by a small voice, and thru faint impressions.

3. You will notice that the little remitter thru which the messages are received, when placed in railroad stations, is usually situated in a bay-window. The reason for this, no doubt, is to make it possible for the operator to see the railroad track in either direction. God has not placed His little machine in people's heads or feet, but in their conscience . . . that undying substance which eyes *time* and *eternity* at the same instance each moment of the day. The most wicked man in the world is seriously impressed a hundred times a day, by this monitor within.

CHAPTER XXIV

BROKEN DOWN ENGINES

Not many weeks ago while passing thru Fort Wayne, Indiana, on the Pennsylvania Railroad, we noticed in a yard from the car window twenty-five or thirty old broken down railroad engines nearly eaten up by rust. This scene caused numberless thoughts to pass thru our mind.

The first one that came to us as we looked upon the various styles, sizes and conditions of these engines, was the destructive work of sin. At one time every one of these engines were new, useful and in perfect condition, but today they are burnt out, broken down, lopsided, rust-eaten and helpless.

All one has to do to see the same picture reproduced among human beings is to visit the work-house, the poor-house, the county hospital and the insane asylum. There you will behold drunken sots, jail-birds, nervous wrecks, withered hags and demented cranks by the scores. Once upon a time each one of these wrecks of humanity was some mother's innocent darling upon her knee, but sin, the mother of death and endless hell, destroyed them.

A second thought that came to our mind when

we saw these broken down, cast-off engines was this: the railroad company had used them until they became of no service and then threw them out unsheltered. The God whom the Christian serves is not so heartless and cruel with His subjects. He does not cast His children off simply because they have become old, sick, helpless and broken down, but has made ample provision for them both in time and in eternity.

The Psalmist said, "I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread." (Psa. 37:25.) "Now also when I am old and gray-headed, O God, forsake me not." (Psa. 71:18.) "When thou wast young, thou girdest thyself, and walkest whither thou wouldest: but when thou shalt be old, thou shalt stretch forth thy hands, and another shall gird thee." (Jno. 21:18.) "For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens." (2 Cor. 5:1.)

"No grim old age to mar the face,
Nor sin, nor hell shall reach the place;
No sighs shall mingle with the songs
Which warble from immortal tongues.

No rude alarm of raging foes,
No cares to break the long repose!
No midnight shade, no clouded sun,
But sacred, high, eternal noon."

*"NOW unto him that is able to keep
you from falling, and to present
you faultless before the presence of his
glory with exceeding joy. (Jude 24.)*

*"For I know whom I have believed,
and am persuaded that he is able to
keep that which I have committed unto
him against that day." (2 Tim. 1:12.)*

CHAPTER XXV

THE TRAIN LEAVING THE STATION

One day on preparing to leave Chicago for a town in the State of Michigan, the train was scheduled to leave at twelve o'clock P. M. The cars stood lined up on the track, the passengers all seated, the big engine throbbed and the conductor, with timepiece in hand eagerly watched for the last moment to come. Finally he cried, "All aboard!" and then we felt the impulse of the big engine ahead, stealing us away from the "Windy City." This little circumstance so impressed us that we failed to get rid of it for hours. Instantly the touching scene flashed before our minds of the *last hour*, *last moment* and *last second*, which is rapidly coming to us all; when grim death, the viewless conductor, shall give to our weeping, heart-broken, loved ones and friends around our dying bed, the parting signal, "All aboard!" by way of pallid cheeks, death dews and sinking spells. At that point we shall then feel flashing thru our fever-scorched frame for the first time impulses of the great engine that will take us from time to eternity. O, think of the strangeness of that hour! See how the dear ones in the death chamber are receding from our vision! They are weeping, they are call-

ing, they are pressing and clasping our icy hands, but the power of utterance is gone and we cannot respond. Lo, a mist is now gathering before our eyes! Jordan's river-bed is rapidly sinking beneath our feet, and all is becoming confusion, while the great engine pulls our train out of the station of time across the great suspension bridge into eternity. Loved ones and friends in the death chamber are weeping and sobbing over our lifeless form, but lo, the train is gone!

Reader, what preparation are you making for this awful hour? Remember, it is coming to you some day.

Permit me at this point to give you first a few testimonies of departing sinners, and secondly, the testimonies of some departing Christians. The following are from sinners:

1. The infidel Hobbs: "I shall be glad to find a hole to creep out of the world."
2. Mrs. J. B.: "Devils are in my room, ready to drag my soul down to hell. See how they laugh!"
3. Jennie Gordon: "I must quit these mortal shores. I would delay, I would linger . . . but no! The fiends, they come; O, save me! They drag me down! Lost! lost! lost!" A moment more and she rallied and with glazed eyes she looked upon her weeping friends for the last time, then the lids sank partly down and pressed out a remaining tear as she whispered, "Bind me, ye chains of darkness! Oh! that I might cease to be, but still exist."

The worm that never dies, the second death." The spirit fled and she lay a lifeless corpse.

Some testimonies of departing Christians:

1. Ellen Carlson: "The blood is sufficient. My trials are all over and my triumph has begun."

2. John Wesley: "The best of all is, God is with us. Farewell! farewell."

3. Dr. Payson: "The battle's fought, the battle's fought; and the victory is won: the victory is won forever! I am going to bathe in an ocean of purity and benevolence and happiness to all eternity."

THE END.

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